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S E C R E T STATE 149626

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/15  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [UK](#) [JO](#) [GCCC](#)  
SUBJECT: STAUNCHING THE FLOW OF SAUDI SUICIDE BOMBERS TO  
IRAQ

REFS: A) STATE 136754 B) RIYADH 5328

CLASSIFIED BY NEA DAS GORDON GRAY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D).

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraphs 3-10.

#### SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (S) The Saudis have been aggressive in their public condemnation of the 7/7 London bombings, the murder of the Egyptian diplomat in Baghdad, and the Sharm al-Shaykh attacks. We should urge the Saudis to sustain the public campaign discrediting Iraqi insurgents and denouncing extremism. The Department requests Posts approach host government officials at an appropriate level to provide the following points. END SUMMARY.

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PUBLIC DELEGITIMATION CAMPAIGN AND TRAVEL TO IRAQ  
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[1](#)3. Begin Points. For Embassy Riyadh:

#### Intro:

-- Iraq is the President's highest priority. We appreciate the help you have offered to date. But we are at a critical moment. It is imperative that all of us, in particular our Arab friends, ratchet up our efforts.

-- The President is convinced that one of the best tools we have to defeat Iranian influence and encourage Sunni Arab participation is a maximum effort by the Sunni Arab states to engage the Iraqi government.

-- We know the situation is dangerous. But Americans and Iraqis have been dying in large numbers to secure a democratic future for Iraq. We do not believe it is asking too much for our best Arab allies to take some risks as well in their service of a mission that will benefit us all.

(S-Rel KSA) Encourage the following:

-- Suggest Saudi religious authorities continue to highlight that suicide and suicide bombings as seen in Iraq are impermissible in Islam.

-- Include the concept of family shame over the terrorist/extremist activities of relatives.

-- Pass a law that relatives and friends who had any knowledge of a prospective suicide bomber's activities or

who did anything to facilitate their activities (including travel to Iraq) could face criminal liability.

-- Focus on need for Saudis to protect the reputation of Islam as a religion of peace, their personal honor, and to prevent their sons being led into error.

-- Encourage Saudis to issue public advisories that any Saudi nationals traveling to Iraq without proper legal status could be jailed for life once there, noting that Iraqi courts have already handed down such sentences to some Saudis who entered illegally.

(S-Rel KSA) Restrict Saudi-Iraq Travel. Urge the Saudis to do the following to restrict travel to Iraq:

-- Announce and publicize that Saudi nationals are permitted entry into Iraq only via the official Saudi-Iraqi border posts.

-- Request regional assistance (chiefly from Syria and Yemen) to enforce the restriction.

-- Publicize stiff penalties under Iraqi law for those Saudis traveling to Iraq via other countries; Urge passage of Saudi law, if necessary, to punish such movement severely.

-- As an interim measure, support Saudi efforts to have Syria impose a visa requirement on Saudi citizens traveling to Iraq through Syria.

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SAUDI RECOGNITION OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT  
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¶4. For Embassy Riyadh:

(S) Urge the Saudis, in cooperation with the ITG, to do the following:

-- Extend an immediate invitation to Iraqi PM Ja'afari to visit Riyadh to discuss common concerns and interests. Important that SAG work with the democratically elected government of Iraq.

-- Notwithstanding the campaign by al-Qa'ida in Iraq to target diplomatic officials, appoint and send to Baghdad an ambassador to Iraq immediately and to make clear, official statements in support of the democratically elected ITG. Should it be impossible to dispatch an ambassador to Iraq in the near-term, proceed nevertheless with the symbolic action of naming a senior official as Saudi Ambassador.

-- Urge Saudis to reduce Iraqi debt beyond the Paris Club agreements citing the desperate need for additional Iraqi economic development and reconstruction.

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OUTREACH TO IRAQ'S SUNNIS  
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¶5. For Embassy Riyadh and Embassy Baghdad:

(S) Encourage the following:

-- Saudis reaching out to all Iraqis, especially in the Sunni community, urging them to renounce violence unambiguously and participate peacefully in the political process. At the same time, very important to engage with the ITG and begin building relationships for the long-term.

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AL SAUD VISIT TO BAGHDAD

¶6. For Embassy Riyadh:

(S) A senior Al Saud figure (e.g., King Abdullah, Crown Prince Sultan, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal or Assistant Minister of Interior Muhammad bin Nayif) should be encouraged to travel to Baghdad in the near term to

denounce the insurgency and to pledge Saudi support for the new Iraqi Government and its fight against terrorists. This visit and pledge should include a Saudi-led and funded capacity-building initiative to improve the capabilities of the Iraqi CT services. Such a visit might also coincide with the naming of a Saudi ambassador to Baghdad.

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JOINT BORDER POSTS AND TRAINING  
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¶7. For Embassy Riyadh and Embassy Baghdad:

(S) With CENTCOM assistance as appropriate, encourage joint border initiatives between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. These efforts would have the added benefit of demonstrating to the King that we take his concerns, voiced repeatedly to US officials, over Iraqi insurgents coming into the Kingdom seriously:

-- Cultivate trust among and increase effectiveness of Iraqi and Saudi border control services by encouraging joint training, the use of common databases, documentation standards, and procedures, and possibly even jointly manned border checkpoints.

-- Establish regular intelligence exchanges between the two border services as well as the exchange of immigration/customs personnel.

-- Provide necessary training, equipment or other assistance to bolster Iraqi/Saudi border control efforts.

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GCC INITIATIVES  
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¶8. For GCC Embassies:

(S) Urge GCC governments to announce that they will establish a fund to assist Iraqis wounded by suicide bombings-focusing on women, children, and Iraqi police-for medical treatment and recovery; include extensive media coverage with interviews of victims giving their personal stories and GCC leaders visiting them in their hospital beds. In addition, encourage GCC governments to establish a fund for the families of Iraqi security personnel killed in action.

(S) The State Department will push the OIC Conference (to be held in Jeddah in December 2005) agenda to examine ways to discourage the suicide attack phenomenon in Iraq and to issue a clear denunciation of the practice.

¶9. For Embassy Amman, Embassy Riyadh, and Embassy Baghdad:

(S) Use the momentum of the recent meeting convened by Jordan's King Abdullah which brought together more than 170 clerics and religious leaders to highlight their desire to promote the "true image of Islam." The declaration limits the issuance of religious edicts and calls for the global Muslim community to unify against threats to its integrity.

MULTILATERAL OPPORTUNITIES

¶10. For Embassy London, Embassy Riyadh, Embassy Amman, and Embassy Baghdad:

(S) With CENTCOM assistance as appropriate, develop a joint approach among the U.S., UK, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to press the Syrian Government to shut down the pipelines used by jihadists and suicide bombers to enter Iraq.

End points.

RICE